

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Thursday, December 24, 2015

5:00 p.m.

†THE GATHERING MUSIC

“Christmas Carol Medley”.....Guitar Ensemble

THE PRELUDE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” arr. Mark Hayes
Annie Winkelman, oboe

THE INTROIT

“Unto Us a Child Is Born”.....Laura Farnell

The Concord Choir, The Carol Choir, The Chapel Choir

For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is giv'n.

God is with us, Emmanuel. Alleluia! A savior has come!

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed

The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay.

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

He shall be called Emmanuel. Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!

THE GREETING AND INVOCATION Bob Setzer, Jr.

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 173

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELES

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE.....Mark, Kathryn, and Matthew Ashworth

One: So many times, we have told this story.

All: So many times, we have sung the songs.

One: Christmas comes and we try so hard to remember

All: Why are we here?

One: Why do we light a candle and sing?

All: Why are we here?

One: We come, following the star of hope.

All: We come to listen for a still small voice.

One: The story of a little child born in a dirty barn, giving life to the whispers of the ancient stories, bringing hope to a forgotten dream.

All: We come to remember.

One: The story of angels singing in a bright, star-filled night, proclaiming the wonder and majesty of this one, small moment.

All: We come to be amazed!

One: The story of good news, proclaimed to the outcast shepherds, reminding us of God's love for the least of these.

All: We come to be humbled.

One: The story of a baby, born breathing the grand promises of God.

All: We come to give thanks.

One: Light of the world, hope of all nations, Jesus Christ, born this night.

All: We come to share the good news of God's love, born to us that we might have life!

~Corinne Causby

* Those who are able will stand.

† Ushers will seat those waiting.

Hearing aids and large print hymns are available from the ushers.

THE CAROLS

“Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain” Carolyn Jennings

Combined Choirs

*Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you.*

*He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you.*

*He who made the stars in the heaven, he who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, he. Behold, your Lord!*

*He will come in power and glory, He will rule with mercy and truth,
Hope of all the nations, Light of the world, Light of all the world.*

*He will love the little children, he will hold them safe in his arms.
Love him and trust him as a little child, Behold, your Lord comes to you.*

“Caroling, Caroling” Alfred Burt

The Youth Choir

*Caroling, caroling, now we go; Christmas bells are ringing!
Caroling, caroling thru the snow; Christmas bells are ringing!
Joyous voices sweet and clear, Sing the sad of heart to cheer.
Ding, dong, ding, dong, Christmas bells are ringing!*

*Caroling, caroling thru the town; Christmas bells are ringing!
Caroling, caroling up and down; Christmas bells are ringing!
Mark ye well the song we sing, Gladsome tidings now we bring
Ding, dong, ding, dong, Christmas bells are ringing!*

*Caroling, caroling, near and far; Christmas bells are ringing!
Following, following yonder star; Christmas bells are ringing!
Sing we all this happy morn, "Lo, the King of heav'n is born!"
Ding, dong, ding, dong, Christmas bells are ringing!*

*THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 Lucrecia Norman

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

The First Noel

**The first Noel, the angels did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY Bob Setzer, Jr.

THE CAROLS

“Away in a Manger”arr. James Curnow

Daniel Winkelman, horn

“Candlelight, Burning Bright”Helen Kemp

The Youth Choir; Patricia Guy, violin

*Candlelight, burning bright, light the Christmas tree tonight!
Warm the hearts of young and old with the flame of living gold.
Bless the children at their play, guide the stranger on his way.
Heav’n has touched the earth today. Christ the Lord has come!*

*Candlelight, burning bright, light the house of prayer tonight!
Shed thy beauty as we bring homage to the Savior King!
Cheer us as our carols rise winged on gladness to the skies,
God has opened Paradise, Christ the Lord has come!*

*Candlelight, burning bright, shine within our hearts tonight!
Fill us with the glow of love like a presence from above.
Shine through us in helpful deeds, shine in faith and noble creeds:
Light is what this dark world needs, Christ the Lord has come!*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Bob Setzer, Jr.

Silent Night

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright;
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

*THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING Bob Setzer, Jr.

*THE POSTLUDE

“Toccata on ADESTE FIDELES” David Hegarty

Lauren Winkelman, organ



ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Tonight we celebrate Christmas Eve and the birth of Jesus. This evening's candle-lighting liturgy was written by Knollwood member Corinne Causby. We welcome new members Mark, Kathryn, and Matthew Ashworth as the Christ candle lighters.

We express appreciation to the guitar ensemble, under the direction of Marty Edwards, for their musical offerings this evening. We also thank Patricia Guy, Annie Winkelman, Daniel Winkelman, and David Winkelman for sharing their musical gifts; and Charlotte Brown and Allison Smith for their children's choir leadership.

ABOUT OUR BANNERS

Drawing on biblical stories and images, the Advent banners depict the four movements of the Advent season: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. The Advent season anticipates the coming of the Christ child at Christmas.

PLEASE REFER TO P. 32 FOR ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.